'Fine'—Business 'Fascism'—Labor

Business leaders in British Columbia gave unanimous approval Tuesday to new labor legislation proposed for the province, but union leaders reacted with sharp criticism.

A bill introduced in the legislature at Victoria by Labor Minister Lyle Wicks would make union and management groups legally responsible for their actions, and would prohibit sympathetic picketing and secondary boycotts by unions. (See Page 1.)

Claude Jodoin, president of the Canadian Labor Congress, said in a telephone interview from Ottawa that he would give "fullest co-operation" in any campaign against the proposed act.

"I know of no other province in Canada which has any legislation like this," said Mr. Jodoin.

For management, Archie H. Cater, president of the Vancouver Board of Trade, considered the proposed amendments "a forward step." Ralph Pybus, a representative of the construction industry and past president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, said "we agree with what has been done."

George Mitchell, secretary of the International Woodworkers of America, the province's biggest union, commented:

"This brings us the closest we have ever been to Fascism."

He called it another "Pearl Harbor" attack by Social Credit and added: "We'll deal with it eventually. It will take time, but we'll meet the situation."

J. V. Clyne, chairman of MacMillan and Bloedel Limited, B.C.'s biggest forest products company, called the legislation a "very good move."

"The proposed legislation recognizes the increasing power and importance of labor unions in the community," said Mr. Clyne.

"It seems only natural that a union, which is just as powerful if not more powerful than most companies, should be recognized at law and have all the privileges and all the liabilities of a big company, and be entitled to sue and to be sued."

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Bonner Debate

Continued from Page 1

need for an enemy?" he asked with a smile.

"If our subsequent investigations had not disclosed the presence of the witnesses Davenport and Daniels," he said, "I doubt very much if we would have had a conviction today."

UPHELD BY JUDGE

Commenting on criticism over the amount of time which elapsed from the time original charges were made and the laying of charges against Sommers, Mr. Bonner said the question had been considered by Crown counsel before the case, and had been raised and upheld by the trial judge.

"If that limitation period is found operative, not only will Crown counsel, but also the trial judge will have been corrected," he said.

ASSUMPTION OF BLAME

Gordon Dowding (CC, Burnaby) suggested that Mr. Bonner follow British parliamentary procedure and resign his post to assume the blame. Otherwise, he said the blame fell on the government as a whole.

"It is not our job to make any decision here," commented Opposition Leader Robert Strachan. "We . . . have never presumed to take the place of a judge or jury in deciding the guilt or innocence of a minister.

WHAT MOTION DOES

"But part of our responsibility is to judge the competence or incompetence of ministers. That is what this motion does . . .

"He allows political requirements to become confused with his legal judgment."

After six and one half hours of debate in the legislature yesterday the $25,400 salary vote of the attorney-general's department was approved at 10.55 last night.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A group of U.S. scientists said yesterday the government should cancel plans for "peaceful" atomic explosion tests if its "project plowshare" program gives Russia an excuse to resume nuclear weapons tests.

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Escapes Needle Nanaimo

NANAIMO—Ald. William McGregor told city council here that the escapes from the Brannan Lake Industrial School near here were "getting under people's skin."

Ald. McGregor, police committee chairman, said there had been 32 boys escaped in the past month.

This was subsequently contradicted, however, by school officials. Only 18 had escaped last month.

Hearing in Nanaimo

Cut Class Size Teachers to Ask

NANAIMO — Drastic reductions in the size of school classes, establishment of public kindergartens and an extensive research program into ways and means of improving the B.C. education system will be advocated by Nanaimo teachers at the Chant royal commission hearing.

These proposals and others contained in a 40-page brief, will be placed before the commission at Nanaimo March 17, announced senior high school teacher Roy Daniels.

Mr. Daniels said that teachers are leaving the profession for other occupations because they feel frustrated when trying to teach such large classes.

"The students are frustrated too," said Mr. Daniels.

The brief will ask that consideration be given to a "radical alteration" in the general school program, and that entry into the university program be curtailed.

Mr. Daniels said more than 60 per cent of the students in the university program at Nanaimo high school would fail.

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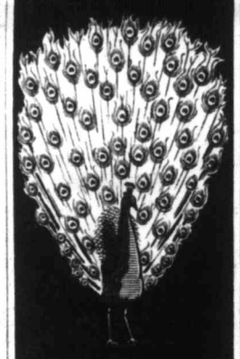
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Battle on Operating Table Fails to Save Boy's Life

COURTENAY — A six hour battle on the operating table by a team of doctors to save the life of a 16-year-old Courtenay boy proved in vain yesterday.

Frank Reid was taken to St. Josephs Hospital at 4 p.m. Monday, after being extracted from his 1953 car by nearby residents when he apparently lost control of the vehicle on Cumberland Road. The car left the highway and plunged into a ditch leaving Reid pinned behind the wheel.

RCMP said the car was a total loss.

The boy who would have reached his 17th birthday next month was alone in the car at the time. He is survived by his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Reid, two brothers, Paul, 20, Robert, 5; two sisters, Marie Elizabeth, 12, and Linda 10, all of Marsden Road, Courtenay.

Funeral services will be held from the Sutton Funeral Home Saturday, conducted by Jehovas Witnesses.

Inquest into the fatality will be held here, Saturday.

B.C. Workers 'Determined' To Get Bargaining Right

COURTENAY — Opinions expressed at provincial civil servants meetings throughout B.C. have made it evident the government employees are determined to enforce recognition of their right to bargain collectively, a meeting of the Comox District B.C. Government Employees Association was told last night.

Ed O'Connor, general secretary of the provincial association told a meeting of the 105-member local here that the 48 locals throughout B.C. were agreed on the stand.

He also charged Premier Bennett with failing to keep his word to the association with regard to the Carrothers report on civil servants' bargaining rights.

He said the premier had promised an association committee on July 10, 1957, a copy of the report would be made available to the association and that the report would be tabled at the first 1958 session of the B.C. legislature.

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